

What is claimed is

1 . A cover for an article comprising

(a) a sheet of substantially non-stretchable fabric, the sheet defining a characteristic length, and

5 (b) a strip of cross-extensible fabric having an inner edge attached to the sheet in a peripheral direction and having a substantially uniform transverse peripheral unstretched width of about 1-30% of the characteristic length of the sheet,

in which the strip can stretch in a transverse peripheral direction by an incremental extension of at least about 150 % of the unstretched width under a tensile force of less
10 than about 160 g/cm of unstretched width.

2 . The cover of claim 1 in which the strip is elastic in the peripheral direction such that the strip can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

3 . The cover of claim 1 in which the strip is substantially inelastic in the
15 peripheral direction.

4 . The cover of claim 1 which further comprises an elastic cord longitudinally oriented in a peripheral direction in contact with the strip and having an elastic characteristic such that the cord can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

20 5 . The cover of claim 4 in which the elastic cord is positioned at the inner edge of the strip.

6 . The cover of claim 5 in which the strip has an outer edge opposite the inner edge and further comprises an elastic cord positioned at the outer edge.

7 . The cover of claim 4 in which the strip has an outer edge opposite the inner
25 edge and the elastic cord is positioned at the outer edge.

8 . The cover of claim 1 in which the inner edge of the strip is adjacent the periphery of the sheet.

9 . The cover of claim 8 which further comprises an elastic cord longitudinally oriented in a peripheral direction in contact with the strip and having an elastic
5 characteristic such that the cord can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

10 . The cover of claim 9 in which the elastic cord is positioned at the inner edge of the strip.

11 . The cover of claim 9 in which the strip has an outer edge opposite the inner
10 edge and the elastic cord is positioned at the outer edge.

12 . The cover of claim 1 in which the inner edge of the strip is offset from the periphery of the sheet.

13 . The cover of claim 12 which further comprises an elastic cord longitudinally oriented in a peripheral direction in contact with the strip and having an elastic
15 characteristic such that the cord can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

14 . The cover of claim 13 in which the elastic cord is positioned at the inner edge of the strip.

15 . The cover of claim 13 in which the strip has an outer edge opposite the
20 inner edge and the elastic cord is positioned at the outer edge.

16 . The cover of claim 12 which further comprises an elastic cord longitudinally oriented adjacent the periphery of the sheet and having an elastic characteristic such that the cord can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

25 17 . The cover of claim 16 which further comprises an elastic cord longitudinally oriented in a peripheral direction in contact with the strip and having an characteristic such that the cord can stretch to at least about 50% and exhibits a contraction force of at least about 0.3 N at 50% extension.

18. The cover of claim 12 in which the inner edge of the strip is offset from the periphery of the sheet by a distance greater than the width.

19. The cover of claim 1 in which the strip is a net having an open area of at least about 20%.

5 20. The cover of claim 1 in which the cover is adapted to cover a mattress.

21. The cover of claim 1 in which the strip is a perforated film having an open area of at least about 20%.